

NORTH - SOUTH KOREA *Red Cross Talks*

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[2]

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The 21st Sitting of Preliminary Talks between North and South Korean Red Cross Societies Held

Agreement Reached on Forming a 7-Member Delegation on Each Side to Full-dress Talks

The 21st sitting of the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies was held in Panmunjom on July 10 at a time when the whole nation is overwhelmed with joy and excitement and fresh ardor for national reunification after the announcement of the historic joint statement of the north and the south.

The meeting opened at 11 a.m. sharp as usual.

The delegates of the north and south exchanged warm greetings, their faces beaming with joy and excitement at meeting each other after the publication of north-south joint statement, an important event for the nation that had taken place in the period following the 20th meeting of the preliminary talks.

At the meeting the head of the delegation of our side and the chief delegate of the south Korean side warmly hailed the announcement of the north-south joint statement.

Kim Tae Hui, head of the delegation of our side, expressed joy over the holding of the north-south high-level talks and the announcement of the historic north-south joint statement at a time when talks were going on between the north and south Red Cross societies, and declared that the publication of the statement was a proud historical event which opened a new phase in the solution of the question of national reunification.

The three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity, advanced by the respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, are the most correct principles of national reunification reflecting the unanimous aspira-

tions of our nation and the demands of reality of our country, he stressed.

Recalling that at the north-south high-level talks the two sides agreed on actively assisting in the work of the north-south Red Cross talks now going on amid the great concern of the whole nation, he emphasized that the north and south Red Cross societies have been provided with a firm guarantee for successfully advancing the Red Cross talks whose sacred mission is to alleviate the sufferings of the fellow countrymen caused by division and lay a stepping-stone to national reunification.

The Red Cross societies of the north and the south, he said, have assumed a heavy and great responsibility for successfully advancing the Red Cross talks at the greatest speed on the basis of this favourable groundwork to contribute to the independent peaceful reunification of the country. He manifested the unswerving stand of the delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society to show all sincerity for the successful progress of the talks, encouraged by the north-south joint statement.

The meeting discussed the composition of the delegations to the full-dress talks and

their suites, the fourth item on the agenda of the preliminary talks.

At the meeting our side, to begin with, recalled that at the first meeting of the preliminary talks our side had proposed to form delegations of 5 to 7 members to the full-dress talks with the chiefs of the two Red Cross societies (chairman and president) being their respective heads and urged the south Korean side to accept this proposal of our side.

The south Korean side agreed to forming a 7-member delegation on each side. Thus

(Continued on Page 2)



The scene of the 21st sitting of the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies at Panmunjom

Agenda of Full-dress Talks Agreed Upon

Kim Tae Hui, Head of the Delegation of the DPRK Red Cross Society

June 17, 1972

The agenda of the full-dress talks was successfully agreed upon at the 20th meeting of the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross organizations which was held in Panmunjom on June 16 with the attention of all the Korean people and the peace-loving peoples of the whole world focussed on it.

The agenda includes the question of finding out the addresses of the family members and relatives dispersed in the north and the south and ascertaining whether they are alive or dead and notifying the results, the question of realizing free visits and free meetings and effecting free correspondence between them, the question of reuniting the family members dispersed in the north and the south according to their free will and other humanitarian matters. The agreement on the agenda, I think, is a great success we have scored in our efforts to tear down the barrier lying heavily over a period of 27 years and realize the independent, peaceful reunification of the country.

To attain this success, though an initial one, the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea showed utmost sincerity and perseverance and took part in the talks in the spirit of active co-operation, with compatriotic love and in the humanitarian spirit.

The north and the south have differences in political views and religious beliefs, and antagonism and distrust exist between them.

We are now undergoing

much sufferings due to the artificial division of our territory never known before in the long history of our country. When we think of the important matter of the nation, there is no reason why we cannot transcend the differences in political views and religious beliefs and remove antagonism and distrust.

This was the stand of our side on the dialogue between the north and south Korean Red Cross organizations and its attitude on the question of the agenda.

Owing to the occupation of south Korea by the U.S. imperialist aggressors who came across the ocean, our country still remains bisected and the disgusting markers stand in this land along the Military Demarcation Line. So, a woman in Pyonghwari, a village near the Demarcation Line, is unable to see her son in the south, though he is within a calling distance. It, however, is not the case with this mother alone. There are many family members, relatives and friends who, separated from each other in the north and the south with the Military Demarcation Line in between, do not know for more than a quarter of one century whether they are alive or dead.

Any one who sincerely worries about the destiny of the divided fatherland and loves the country and the nation can no longer remain indifferent to the continuation of such a tragic situation.

At the talks, therefore, the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

bent sincere and patient efforts, with the warm feeling of compatriotic love, to have the agenda of the full-dress talks set in such a way as to be consistent with the principle of freedom without any restriction and control and to be for extensive alleviation of the pains of our fellow-countrymen torn apart in the north and the south.

Because of the differences in each other's assertions, we often entered into hot discussions.

The feeling of compatriotic love that we are one and the same nation with the same language enabled us to discuss together the important matters of our nation earnestly and explore the way for the commonness of understanding continuously.

Thus, the agenda of the full-dress talks, as insisted by our side, was so formulated as to mitigate extensively the sufferings of our fellow-countrymen on the principle of freedom and help towards laying a stepping stone for national reunification.

I recall to my mind that the course of discussing the question of the agenda was the days when our hearts burned with a patriotic desire to relieve as many people as possible from the sufferings caused by national split and the days when we were filled with an ardent patriotic desire to see the north-south Red Cross talks contribute to ending the state of freeze between the north and the south and achieving the independent, peaceful reunification of the country.

The agreement on the

agenda of the full-dress talks reflecting the aspiration of our nation and the concrete conditions of our country firmly guarantees the successful winding up of the preliminary talks and clearly indicates the objective and direction of the forthcoming full-dress talks.

That is just why all the people in north and south Korea heartily welcome the agreement on the agenda of the full-dress talks and warmly support the north-south Red Cross talks, eagerly looking forward to the day when their sufferings caused by the division will be lessened.

The world peace-loving people who are apprehensive of the tension in our country also hope for the creation of a favourable atmosphere for peaceful reunification. And they wish that the agreement on the agenda will push forward the north-south Red Cross talks.

With such best wishes and encouragement of the peoples at home and abroad, we will again sit around one table for discussion. And in order to realize the aspiration of the nation, we will show all sincerity and make every effort to bring to a satisfactory conclusion the discussion of the remaining tasks assigned to the preliminary talks and start the full-dress talks at the earliest possible date.

Now we, only several persons, are having an open-hearted exchange of views, but soon our dialogue and contacts will pave the way for uniting into one the separated fellow countrymen and opening the door of peaceful reunification.

(Continued from Page 1)
an agreement was reached on composing a 7-member delegation on each side to the full-dress talks. But, the south Korean side refused to accept the proposal of our side on choosing the chiefs of the Red Cross societies of the two sides as heads of the delegations, arguing that this would make the talks "top-level talks" and "heads of the delegations should be

chosen at the last meeting of the preliminary talks" and "there is no need to determine the rank of the heads of the delegations."

Kim Tae Hui, head of the delegation of our side, repeatedly explained to the south Korean side that to determine the rank of heads of the delegations was one of the tasks of the preliminary talks, the chiefs of the Red Cross societies of the

two sides should be heads of the delegations to the full-dress talks in light of the importance of the north-south Red Cross talks now going on amid the concern of the whole nation and the vast work to be done by the talks and in view of the fact that it is a most important undertaking of the Red Cross societies of the north and south to successfully steer the talks between them and

mitigate the sufferings of the fellow countrymen scattered in the north and south. But no agreement was reached on this matter as the south Korean side failed to approach the just proposal of our side with understanding.

After the meeting the delegates of the two sides had a rest together in the lounge of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission.

Full dress Talks Agenda Set on Principles of Freedom and Wide-range Mitigation of Sufferings

The 20th sitting of the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies held on the 16th of June at Panmunjom finally concluded the discussion of agenda for the full-dress talks. At the meeting the delegates of the two Red Cross societies agreed on the agenda for the full-dress talks, which had been polished through 13 working-level meetings, and exchanged the texts of the agreement.

The settlement of the agenda has opened the prospect for an early and successful conclusion of the preliminary talks and for the holding of the full-dress talks and gave the definite orientation to the forthcoming full-dress talks.

The agreement on the agenda is of great significance in tearing down the barrier lying between the north and south for 27 years and in laying stepping stones for an independent, peaceful reunification of the country.

When the full-dress talks bear fine fruits, fellow-countrymen who live separated in the north and the south will have the freedom of mutual visits and correspondence, and the scattered families will be able to reunite according to their free will for an amicable family life.

This will greatly contribute to an earliest realization of peaceful national reunification in conformity with the unanimous desire of the entire people of north and south Korea who have been suffering from national division till today when a new generation have grown up.

That is why the broad world public, to say nothing of the entire Korean people, warmly support and welcome the agreement of the agenda.

The settlement of the agenda of the full-dress talks in harmony with the aspiration of all the Korean people is a brilliant fruition of the just stand and sincere efforts of the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The respected and beloved Leader Comrade Kim Il Sung said:

"Our stand on the talks between the north and south Red Cross organizations is

clear. We want to mitigate even a day earlier the sufferings our people are undergoing owing to the division, by bringing the talks to a success with all our sincerity and pave the way, with it as a stepping stone, to the peaceful reunification of the country."

True to the teaching of the great Leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Il Sung, the DPRK Red Cross delegation did everything it could for the success in the discussion of the agenda of the full-dress talks, the most important question in the preliminary talks.

Already at the 1st sitting of the preliminary talks, the Red Cross delegation of our side, prompted by noble compatriotic love and humanitarian principle, and with a view to alleviating the sufferings of the families, relatives and friends living scattered in the north and the south, advanced a fair and reasonable agenda, drawn on the principle of freedom, acceptable to everyone.

Our side proposed to accept its drafted agenda, maintaining that not only the families but also the relatives and friends were suffering the same over a quarter of a century and that the latter, too, should be made to travel and write to each other free-

ly.

Trying to restrict the category of those whose sufferings are to be alleviated, however, the south Korean side argued that the "tracing of families" was the only "mission of the Red Cross." For the purpose of justifying their unreasonable allegation, they raved about the "emergency relief," "stages," "international tracing experiences," "inability" and so on, in an attempt to hamper the discussion.

Finding their arguments untenable any longer, the south Korean side advanced an amendment, in which the problem of relatives was added as a matter of secondary importance, at the 11th sitting of the preliminary talks. At the 17th sitting they were obliged to put the problem of relatives on a par with that of families, as justly demanded by our side.

As to the principle of lessening the sufferings, the south Korean side said that they could not accept the free travel proposed by our side "because its aims are not clear and its motives are doubtful." They held on to the "mutual visits" under restriction and control.

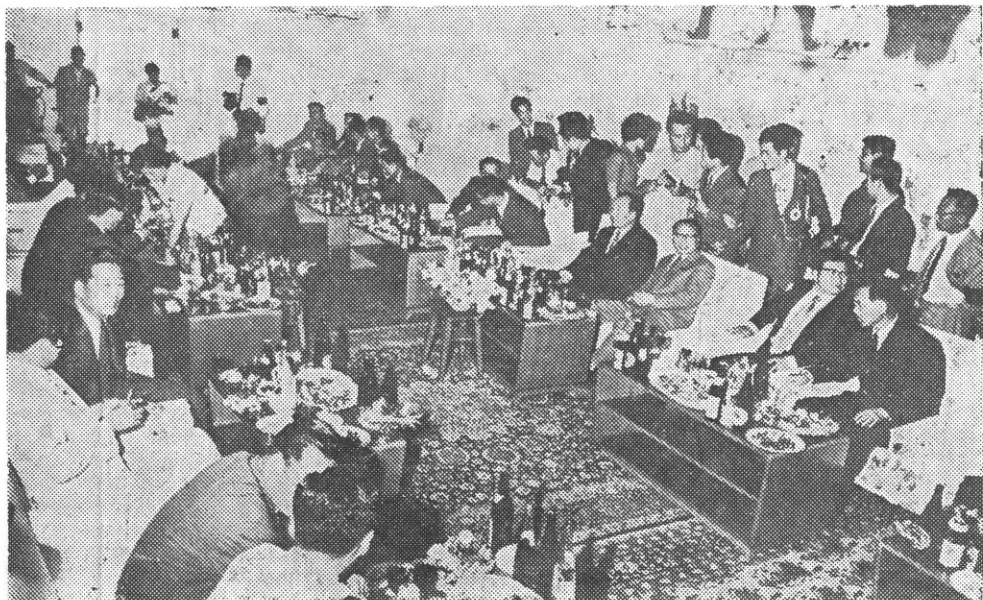
In order to break the deadlock and bring the talks to an earlier success, at the 17th sitting our side made a

new proposal, which included free visits instead of the free travel, considering the assertion of the south Korean side as well. Instead of accepting this just and reasonable proposal, however, the south Korean side advanced an amendment proposing to do good offices "for free travel for mutual visits" and "reunion," etc.—an amendment that had nothing essentially different. Thus, they continued to oppose the principle of freedom and created greater complexity in the discussion of the question.

Unable to persist any further in their unreasonable allegation with repeated persuasion of our side, at the 18th sitting they agreed to our proposal to apply the principle of freedom to all items of agenda and expressed their readiness to put off the words "good offices."

Taking into account the fact that the south Korean side accepted the wide-range mitigation of the people's sufferings caused by the division and the principle of freedom precluding any interference and restriction and guaranteeing complete democracy, and with the sole aim to promote the progress of the talks, at the 19th sitting our side took the initiative by proposing to hold the

(Continued on Page 4)



The delegates of the two sides having a rest together after the 21st sitting of the preliminary talks between the north and south Korean Red Cross societies

Agreement on the Full-dress Talks Agenda Is the Fruition of Our Sincere Effort

At the 20th sitting of the preliminary talks the north and south Korean Red Cross societies reached a complete agreement on the agenda for the full-dress talks, reports said.

For more than 20 years I have lived missing my families so much, from whom I was separated. The same is true with many fellow-workers, many people.

So our people received the news with great joy.

The settlement of the ques-

tion of the agenda for the full-dress talks affords a further proof of the justness and vitality of the consistent policy of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic for national reunification.

The agenda fully reflects the unanimous aspiration of the entire Korean people, because it provides for the free visit and correspondence between the separated families and relatives scattered in the north and south and the

reunion of the separated families in accordance with their free will.

I think the agenda has a great significance for widely mitigating the misfortunes of the fellow-countrymen caused by the artificial national split and for laying a stepping stone for the reunification of the country, the utmost desire of our nation. I fully support it.

I am firmly convinced that this success will open up a door to the reunion of scat-

tered fellow-countrymen and the peaceful reunification.

I will strive to accelerate vigorously the socialist construction in the northern half of the Republic, hoping that an earliest possible conclusion will be brought to the north and south Red Cross talks aimed to rejoin the north-south ties severed due to the territorial division and lessen to some extent our sufferings caused by the national split, thereby hastening the independent, peaceful reunification of the country.

Li Ki Won
Worker of the Pyongyang
Silk Mill

It was reported that the north and south Korean Red Cross societies fully agreed on the agenda of the full-dress talks on June 16 at the 20th sitting of the preliminary talks at Panmunjom, the place of north-south dialogue, where the attention of hundreds of millions of world people, the attention of the south Korean people in particular, is focussed. The news evoked excitement and stormy cheers from the south Korean people of all walks of life.

A railway worker expressed his emotion, saying:

"The news moves me strongly. Now the families and relatives who have lived separated for a quarter of a century, not hearing from each other will come and go between the north and south and meet each other.... This seems to me like a dream.... The day will come when the free visit is realized and trains run whistling between Pyongyang and Seoul carrying visitors. A mere thought of the day makes my heart throb."

"Door to Reunification Should Be Opened"

The South Korean People Welcome the Agreed Agenda of Full-dress Talks

A peasant in the Ryongnam area said:

"I have lived in poverty, not knowing smiles for many years. Now I smile and feel a great happiness. Our people will travel between the north and south and meet with each other. What a thing of joy it is! It is what we wish. When the chance of travel come, I wish I will be the first to go to north Korea to meet my relatives who are living happily in the bosom of Premier Kim Il Sung, do farming with the help of machines."

A person in Seoul, surnamed Li, remarked:

"This is really happy news. Everyday I have listened to the radio broadcast. But I have never had happier news than today's. I look forward to the day when the full-dress talks will open. When I think that the day is drawing near when I can meet my younger brother in north

Korea, I feel tears of joy coming to my eyes... To me, the south Korean authorities seem to be insincere to the talks."

A scientist had this to say:

"It is necessary for us today to squarely face the reality. If the south Korean side has a correct understanding of the stirring situation of today, it should agree to the proposals of the north Korean side, and take one step forward to keep with the trend of the times and lay stepping stones for national reunification."

A businessman said:

"Proposals advanced by the delegation of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were just from the outset. The south Korean authorities should look at the stream of the times straightly. Shutting the door of north-south dialogue is meant blocking their way

out.... The south Korean side should have agreed to the agenda of the full dress-talks."

An officeman noted:

"In the night when I heard the happy news I, in a dream, met my families from whom I had been separated. If the full-dress talks solves the problems specified in the agenda, the scattered families and relatives will leap for joy shedding tears. The south Korean people anxiously look forward to the day of reunification."

It is high time the south Korean authorities should draw a lesson. They should not stage foolish plays such as "arming with anti-communist ideas" and "anti-communist training" but listen to the voices of north Korea. Now that the door of north-south dialogue has been opened, the door to reunification between the north and south should be opened."

(Continued from Page 3)

working-level meeting to polish the agenda of the full-dress talks.

The working-level meetings were held with closed door for 3 months from February 21 to June 5, 1972.

The new reasonable proposal made by our side at the beginning of the working-level talks was adopted as the agenda of the full-dress talks after 13 meetings.

The agenda of the full-dress talks agreed on at the 20th sitting of the preliminary talks includes the problems on the tracing and informing

of the addresses, survivals and deaths of the separated families and relatives scattered in the north and the south, and on effecting free visits, meetings and exchange of letters between them. It also includes the question of free reunion of the scattered families and other humanitarian problems.

The agenda widely prescribes the category of those whose sufferings are to be mitigated and is run through with the principle of freedom.

The whole course of discussing the agenda was the course of overcoming the unreasonable stand and attitude

of the south Korean side and the course of carrying through the just stand of our side to solve the burning questions pertaining to the sufferings of our fellow-countrymen who live scattered in the north and the south.

The DPRK Red Cross delegation will make every effort to bring an earliest conclusion to the discussion of the pending questions and to pave the way to a successful opening of the full-dress talks, and will thus contribute to alleviating the sufferings of our compatriots and laying stepping stones for

national reunification.

The success of the Red Cross talks depends entirely on the south Korean side. If it gives up its previous unwarranted attitude and sincerely faces the talks on the standpoint of noble compatriotic love and humanitarianism in future, the preliminary talks will come to an early conclusion and the full-dress talks will be opened soon. This will greatly contribute to the sacred cause of mitigating the national sufferings caused by the split, and of hastening the independent, peaceful reunification of the country.